



Office of Public Instruction

Bill Drafting Requests tied to OPI Strategic Directions

Goal Statement

Students Graduate Prepared for College and Careers

1) Increase K-12 BASE Aid

This proposal is to increase the basic and per ANB entitlements, the quality educator payment, the Indian Education for All payment, and the American Indian Achievement Gap payment by 2.33% in FY 2016 and by 1.03% in FY 2017.

Objective 1: Reduce the dropout rate by 50% from 2008-2016

Performance Measure

- Decrease the statewide dropout rate from 5.1% to 2.5% by 2016

2) Raise legal dropout age to 18 or upon graduation

This proposal is to raise the legal dropout age by requiring students to attend school until the earlier of 18 years of age, upon high school graduation, or upon satisfaction of the requirements for equivalency of completion of secondary education. The proposal provides an exception from compulsory enrollment for a student who is at least 16 years of age, has withdrawn from school, and has enrolled in an adult basic education program, the Montana Youth Challenge program, a Montana job corps program, an accredited post-secondary program, or a registered apprenticeship program.

3) Provide ANB funding for 19 year olds

This proposal is to include 19 year olds in the school district enrollment used for determining the district's average number belonging to (ANB). This proposal will provide resources and incentives to school districts to keep students in school until the student can meet graduation requirements.

Clarifications and Clean-up

4) Eliminate Winter Enrollment Count

This proposal is to eliminate the official school enrollment count on the first Monday in December. This third enrollment count was added by SB 175 in the 2013 legislative session. The addition of this third count created many hours of work for both schools and OPI. Statewide school districts lost state funding (approximately \$100,000) by the addition of this enrollment count. If the December count is eliminated, schools will continue to report enrollment in October and February for the determination of ANB funding.

5) School Finance clean up legislation

This bill draft request is a placeholder for legislation to coordinate and "clean-up" sections of Title 20, MCA that raise problems for the implementation of school finance laws.